MAINE FARMER
AND JOURNAL OF THE USEFUL ARTS.

BY WILLIAM NOYES & CO.] "OUR HOME, OUR COUNTRY, AND OUR BROTHER MAN." [E. HOLMES, EDITOR.

VOL. II. WINTHROP, MAINE, FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 1834. NO. 12.

THE MAINE FARMER

IS ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING.

TERMS.—Price $2 per annum if paid in advance: $2,50 if payment is delayed beyond the year.

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DIRECTION OF LETTERS. All communications for publication must be directed to the Editor.

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AGRICULTURAL.

For the Maine Farmer.

A TREATISE ON THE CULTURE OF WHEAT.—NO. IV.

Cause of the Rust of Wheat, and of the failure of this grain on old land.

We will suppose also, that the old land is the same kind of soil as the new, say a gravelly loam, and was once in the same state; and that the new land may hereafter be in the same state as the old.

In order to ascertain the difference in the growth of wheat on these two pieces of ground, we must consider the state and circumstances of the land respectively and comparatively.

The burnt land has the principal part of the decomposed manure near the surface, made of the leaves and other substances which have fallen on the top of the ground, and also the ashes of what has been burnt on the land.—But the old ground is no richer at the top than at the bottom, to the depth of nine inches. Consequently, wheat sown on the burnt land, (being covered but lightly with the harrow,) will have a richer soil to germinate and grow in at first, (according to Axiom 2 and 7.) But this is not the only difference. In the burnt land are various substances in different stages of decomposition; but none in the old land. These form strata or veins, looser, warmer and richer than the other parts of the soil. Wheat, on such land, as if by instinct, will first send its roots in these veins, and find a more copious supply of food in the first stages of its growth than it can afterwards from the same quantity of soil. But the old ground, having but little if any thing to decompose, is more compact, colder in the spring and without any richer veins, the roots may as well plunge in one place as in another. On this account it is evident, from Axiom 1, 2, 4 5, 6 and 7, that wheat on the burnt land will attain much more growth in its early stages, than that on the old ground. But in the second stages of the growth, in the burnt land, the richer veins being principally occupied by the first or radical roots, the lateral roots will not find so much manure or nourishment. But in the old ground, in this stage of the growth, when this soil is warmed by the mid-summer sun, the manure which it contains being fully decomposed, operates powerfully to accelerate the growth. The lateral roots now spread in every part of the soil. We may make a speculative estimate of the proportion of the growth on these grounds thus: From the greater extension of roots, and this in the richer parts of the soil, on the burnt land, we may calculate five inches to be the medium depth of the upper part of the soil, in which wheat in its early stages is grown; and that this upper part contains two-thirds of the decomposed manure or nourishment in the soil. In the old ground, from the unfavorable circumstances attending the early growth, we will suppose three inches to be the medium depth of the upper part of this soil; that will contain (the soil being uniformly rich to the depth of nine inches) one third of the decomposed manure in this soil. This estimate I think will fall short of the real difference, but we will state it at this. The proportion of the growth between the first and second stages (according to Axiom 2) will then be,—On the burnt land, as two to three. This one third more growth in the second stages, considering the enlarged size of the stalk, makes the growth nearly equal. But on the old ground the proportion will be, as one to three. This two thirds more growth in the second stages is altogether out of the proportion of equality. Nature is then forced, as it were, to form a new, large and vigorous top upon an old feeble and diseased bottom stalk. The consequence is, the radical roots and lower joint, being adapted to a moderate flow of sap, from the feebleness of its growth at first, and disproportioned to the number and extent of the lateral roots below, and great bulk of the stalk above, are incapable of admitting a free passage to the great and increased quantity of the sap, which the stalk now requires;—the radical roots are ruptured, and as the plant approaches to ripening, the vegetable juice becomes more turbid—the radical roots and lower joint more contracted—the sap clogs, circulation ceases—a gangrene ensues before the kernel is half formed, when the wheat may as well be cut as to stand any longer.

But some perhaps may be ready to say, "This reasoning may appear pretty plausible in regard to burnt land, but when this land is ploughed for a crop of wheat the second year, thereby inverting the soil and mixing it together, why should it then succeed better than old ground?" In answer to such an enquiry, we will pursue the subject still farther, in regard to the condition of these soils in subsequent years. As to inverting the soil by ploughing, this is in general but very imperfectly done, in the state in which we find land the second year after it is cleared. But we will suppose it is well turned over with the plough, and that to as great a depth as it can be with advantage to the crop,—that it is sowed to wheat and well harrowed the second year, and likewise the old ground at the same time and in the same manner.—In the new land there are still many roots and much vegetable matter in a state of decomposition. These form avenues between the upper and lower parts of the soil, in which the roots of wheat very soon find access to the lower part of the soil. The vegetable matter in the ground serves, as in a hot-bed, to keep the soil loose and warm.—(See Axiom 5, 6 and 7)

For the same reasons, wheat sown on a clover sward succeeds better generally than on land in the other finer grasses. The long tap roots of the clover, when rotten or partly decomposed, afford nourishment and passages for the radical roots directly to descend and find warmth and nourishment from the vegetable matter turned under. Hence they become larger, and the wheat attains a better growth in its early stages than in land in the same condition, but which had been in other grasses.

When the old land is again ploughed the second year, it will still be in the same state as before; except that it will be something more exhausted, and the stubble, if ploughed in due season, will be an advantage to the next crop. But if all that grew on the ground is taken off, and nothing more is put on to it, the wheat will not be likely to do better this year than the preceding; because there will be the same difficulties attending the early growth of the wheat as before, the manure being all fully decomposed and incorporated with the soil. The proportion of growth between the first and second stages, will still be the same, and the wheat be equally liable to blight; although the growth on the whole will be less luxuriant than that of the preceding year.

But in the new land the decaying vegetable matter still makes richer veins, thereby giving a preference of soil to the first or radical roots, and on this account the grain attains a more vigorous growth at first than on the old land. For this uniformity of richness in the soil is not effected by ploughing and harrowing; but only when the manure becomes fully decomposed—imbibed in water, and the soil thereby saturated with it.

If these two pieces of land are tilled, and sowed with grain the third and after years without manuring, the same observations will still apply, and the same results follow. Except that there will be a diminished quantity of grain in both soils, and that on the old land will improve in quality if the stubble be ploughed in. For this stubble, when ploughed in and partly de-

composed, will help the growth of wheat in its early stages, and there will be less fully decomposed manure in the soil to invigorate the growth afterwards, whereby the growth will be more equal and regular on the old ground, than on the same land when it was richer.

But this new land at length becomes so much exhausted that the crop will not pay the expense of raising it,—something must be done,—manure from the barn is applied--this increases the crop at first, for this manure is not all immediately incorporated with the soil. But if this manure is applied in much greater quantities than the present crop requires (and it must be to enrich the land) the redundance of this manure is soon dissolved and incorporated with the soil. Hence,by the continued use of this manure, the land becomes less and less fitted to the culture of wheat, till at last it is rich old land in the same condition of that which has before been described. B. R.

THE FARMER.

WINTHROP, FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 4, 1834.

IRRIGATION.

We have before recommended this subject to the attention of farmers, and we again,and perhaps may many times again, touch upon the subject, because we think it one of great importance. What is irrigation ? It is making use of water, for the purpose of either directly or indirectly fertilizing the soil. There are various ways of using the water for this purpose. In either way, the main object is to obtain command of the water so as to place it or have it where you wish. The kind of irrigation which we would call the attention of our farmers to at the present time, is that derived from the innumerable rivulets and little streams that are now gushing from the hill tops and high grounds, and running at random and to waste down the declivities. These may be all put to a good use. How ? Instead of permitting them to flow down the nearest course, as they invariably will if left to nature, and thereby wear away the soil and make gullies, connect them in a circuitous rout back and forward on the hill sides. This may be done by ploughing or digging furrows in such a manner, and with so little descent, that the water will flow more slowly and sluggishly, and thereby not wear away the soil. The fine particles of matter which it has in suspension, will become deposited as the stream trickles slowly along ; and the fertilizing matters which are held dissolved, will soak into the soil and be presented to the mouth of the roots in a fit state to be imbibed. If you watch the progress of nature, in a few weeks, you will perceive the grass to look green, and to begin to start around the little streams and puddles ; and this grass by getting an earlier start will in all probability, yield a greater burden at the harvest, than will that which does not thus receive the stimulus of water, &c., and consequently does not start until a week or more afterwards.

If you have no faith in the thing, try it thoroughly without faith. Try a few rods carefully and honestly, and mark the result.

UNDULATING RAILWAYS.

Experiments which have been tried in England upon their rail roads, go to prove that instead of having rail roads perfectly level, it is better to have them uneven, or rising and descending like a succession of hills. It was found that one Engine would perform as much labor as three will on a perfectly level road. That is, two thirds of the power required to drag a given load upon a level rail road, may be dispensed with, if the rail road be made to rise and fall. This gain is effected by the momentum acquired in descending. Every stage horse knows that by going rapidly down a hill, he does not have quite so hard a pull to get up the succeeding rise. The momentum acquired by the carriage aids him in ascending a certain space. This is good news, and if it shall be fully confirmed by experiment, it may turn out that the "HILLIE COUNTRIE" of Maine is better calculated for rail roads than your flat, monotonous, unromantic plains, heretofore supposed to be absolutely necessary for this species of improvement. All that we shall be under the necessity of doing, will be to lay our rails up the hills and down the hills, and bring this same power of momentum into successful operation.—We will publish the experiments in our next.

UNION OF CORRESPONDENTS. The plan proposed by J. H. J. to form a union of those who are willing to aid each other in the cause of mutual information, by corresponding thro' the columns of our paper, is well received by all from whom we have heard on the subject. Several have sent in their names, to be put upon the list. We shall soon forward a circular (at our expense) to those whom we think will be likely to join the good undertaking ; and we predict no small advantages will arise to the community from such a union.

Our young friend A. G. D. is assured that we well remember him, and welcome him with pleasure to the columns of the Farmer.

IMPROVED TOOTH KEY. We have examined an improved Tooth Key, invented and patented by Mr. Adle of this town. The improvement consists in making the fulcrum a segment of a circle, and also having it moveable to the right or left, so as to be placed readily to any side of the tooth. The advantage consists in raising the tooth more perpendicularly, and consequently being less likely to split the jaw.

We recommend to all who have rebellious grinders, such as will not succumb to the "Electric Anodyne," nor receive a quietus from Camphor, Cajeput, or Ether, that they forthwith summon them into open day, by the aid of the aforesaid instrument.

LAMBS. This is the month for lambs; and how is the state of your sheep and folds ? Are your sheep hearty and healthy, with their wool firm upon their backs, and their udders distended with milk so as to make a lamb laugh when he sees them, and feel proud of his existence ? Or is the wool bidding good bye to the pelt—the udder as dry as parchment—the crows chuckling at the fair prospect of soon being shepherd and proprietor of both sheep and lambs. It is essential that lambs should be kept dry,—we verily believe that they will withstand a snow storm a vast deal better than they will a cold chilly rain storm ; and such storms we may expect at this season of the year. The lamb is the hope of the flock, and if you wish to have good sheep see that your lambs are not abused.

The following letter from a gentleman who took an excursion last winter, for the purpose of procuring subscribers to our paper, was duly received, but was accidentally mislaid, or it would have appeared at the time it came to hand.

FARMINGTON FALLS, *Jan.* 8, 1834.

MR. HOLMES, & Proprietors of Maine Farmer,—I arrived in the Farmington Village last evening. Twice before, have I seen it, but it was both times clothed in the rich verdure of Summer ; and as I have looked with admiration from the high grounds, on the beautifully varied landscape before me, I have thought of Moore's song entitled, I believe, " The Meeting of the Water," beginning ' There is not in this wide world a valley so sweet.'

But even in winter, the lover of rural scenery, will here find much to admire. The prospect from some of the hills which we pass, in coming to this place,is singularly rich and beautiful. From some points can be seen almost the whole length of this valley, laid out into handsome farms, with good buildings ; and through the centre may be traced the serpenting windings of the river. At each end of the valley is a pretty village. The land from the river rises at first into gentle swells, which in some instances are heavily wooded with pine. Farther back the swells are higher, and covered with hard wood. At a considerable distance to the north and west are seen the high lands, rising almost to the height of mountains, among which the Sandy river has its source.

Around the base of some of these hills,appear to be cultivated fields ; further up their sides are woods, which, at the distance I have seen them, look as if they were composed chiefly of evergreens ;—their summits, being entirely naked, (their altitude being, I suppose, too great for vegetation,) form, when the sun is shining brightly on them, a striking contrast with the dark green belts around their centre.

* * * * * * *

I was in conversation this morning with a farmer by the name of John Corbett, of this town, and asked him to subscribe for your paper. He said he thought it might be " a good thing," though he was not very fond of vain theories,—he liked facts, which had been proved by actual experiment, better ; and that a knowledge of these ought to be given to the world, that all might be benefitted by them. He said he thought he had discovered something of this kind which might be valuable.—MR. C. said that a considerable portion of his land which he was obliged to cultivate, lay on a declivity inclining to the south and east, and was rather cold, wet, and heavy. In consequence of this, he could not plant his corn in the spring until after people in more favorable

ituations had done planting, which made the crop late, and exposed to injury by the autumnal frosts. To obviate these difficulties, he has adopted the following plan:

Last fall, (I think in September,) he carted on to a piece of SWARD land, situated as above stated, manure at the rate of 25 cart loads per acre, each load of which had been intimately mixed with a bushel of lime, from a kiln which he had burned on his farm. This latter substance, I learned from him and others, is abundant in this region, but has not been used for any purpose until lately. Mr. C. said that the lime contained some "BAD ROCK," which rendered it unfit for plastering, but that it appeared to possess TWICE the STRENGTH of Thomaston lime. If this is the fact, and the farmers can ascertain by the PROPER APPLICATION of it to their lands, it will be almost an invaluable treasure to them. But to return to the point. The manure and lime were evenly spread on the sward, when it was ploughed in ridges, up and down the declivity, so as to let off the water, by turning two furrows together. He was very careful to turn the furrows over flat, so that the edges might come together nicely and completely cover the manure.

On the centre of these ridges, exactly where the furrows meet, he intends to plant his corn in the Spring, and when his crop is harvested, he says he will give you the result.

I have no comments to make, except to say that I have no doubt EXPERIENCE will show that the THEORY is a good one. I have seen OLD PLAIN land ploughed in ridges with a double mould board plough, and corn planted on them without manure, which I presume gave a better yield, than would have been obtained in the common method. H.

For the Maine Farmer.

REPAIRING HIGHWAYS.

MR. HOLMES,—As the time approaches when we are to be called upon in our several Town Capacities, to determine in what way and manner our highways are to be made and repaired, a few suggestions on that highly important subject may not be amiss. It is to be hoped that the old system is done or at least is fast being done away with, viz: for a Town in its sovreignty to take a man by the shoulder, saying; friend, it is thy turn to serve as surveyor on the highways; and if the poor man asks what compensation he is to have, the answer is,—an opportunity to work out your own highway tax and no more—take the oath to the faithful discharge of thy duty, or pay thy fine. In vain the poor man expostulates by saying that thirty days would be necessary for the faithful discharge of such a duty, while his highway tax would not exceed five dollars.—The answer is—What is that to us?—see thou to that. He at length takes the oath. The time speedily comes when the work must be done, and knowing his inability to give the town 20 or more day's works, and not being at a loss for a precedent, is determined to get clear of the burthen the quickest way possible.

He accordingly summons his district; appoints his deputies; despatches them in different directions, with their several crews.

Broken bridges are to be repaired, and some to be rebuilt; and not a stone or a plank prepared, or a dollar in the hands or at the command of the surveyor, to purchase them with. It may be however that the town has passed a vote, authorizing a discharge to him who shall pay to the surveyor 50 or 60 per cent. on the amount of his taxes. By this every man knows what his labor is rated at, and the most of men will work accordingly, and few if any will advance money for such labor. Whether such a procedure is legal or not, it cannot be for the interest of tne community, and different means must and will eventually be adopted. Not by voting to raise a liberal sum for the repair of highways, and immediately passing another vote that it is NOT WORTH MORE THAN HALF THE NOMINAL AMOUNT, BECAUSE IT IS TO BE PAID IN LABOR! Not by a vote that each surveyor shall have the liberty to expend in his labor 5, 6, or 7 per cent on the amount of his bills for which he shall receive his pay; while some surveyors already have 20 per cent in their hands in their own taxes, and others might not have half that sum when such per centage is added.

Bul let them say that every surveyor whose taxes shall not amount to 10 per cent (more or less as they see fit) on the amount of his bills, shall have liberty to work to that amount, and receive the balance from the town treasury. This would put all surveyors on equal ground, and each would be able to expend about $10 per day.

HINTS TO YOUNG SURVEYORS.

A good plough and a good scraper are implements of the first importance, in repairing roads. Surveyors should, if possible, work on the lowest and flatest land first Old hollow, hard trodden roads should be broken up the whole width, and the best materials put into or nearest the middle of the road. If gravel be applied, it should be laid in a rough state, before it is trodden.

Surveyors should be careful not to wall up tne sides of roads, thereby preventing the scraping in of good materials, and creating the necessity of a railing. Ruts and small sloughs should always be filled with the best materials, such as coarse gravel or old bricks.

OBSERVO.

For the Maine Farmer.

EDUCATION OF FARMERS' SONS.

MR. HOLMES,—I do not like to see so many offices filled by Lawyers, says the Farmer—it is wrong to throw so much power into their hands. Well brother Farmer, we all acknowledge the error; and why is it so? Have you prepared your sons with an education to vie with the Lawyer? Have you fitted him to combat him in the Legislature? Have you given your son a liberal education with the express purpose of making him a Farmer, in order to sweeten the solitude of his labor, and enable him the better to look through Nature up to Nature's God, and said to him, Son, if you should prove to be worthy or deserving an office, and the public stand in need of you they will find you. Is there an instance of the kind? No, notwithstanding the market is glutted with Lawyers on one hand, and with wild lands of the best quality on the other.—While it is evident that the greater part of the graduates of our colleges are the sons of Farmers, not a Farmer is to be found thus to honor his calling.

Is not the following the language of his conduct?—Son, I am about to give you an extra education, and I expect you to become a Lawyer, for that profession is the high road to honor: and as for you, my sons, who are to be Farmers, I have no money to spend on you,—two or three months in a year at the town school is as much as I can afford you. And then complain that the Lawyers have all the important offices.

It is said to be hard for young men after spending two or three years in IDLENESS or at study, to take hold of the plough or hoe; but there are schools among us where a good classical education may be obtained and the habits of industry kept up. OBSERVO.

"TEN DAYS IN OHIO."

We glean from "Ten Days in Ohio," published in Silliman's Journal,the following items of interest to the farmer:

VALUE OF CLOVER.—Speaking of the Muskingum county, the traveller says, the land is generally prepared for a wheat crop,BY PLOUGHING IN A HEAVY GROWTH OF CLOVER; and that this practice has, within six or eight years, ACTUALLY DOUBLED THE AGRICULTURAL WEALTH OF THE COUNTY. This practice is a modification of alternate husbandry. It diversifies the crop, which is one great advantage; and it provides ample food for the wheat crop, which is the main exhauster of the soil. If roots were alternated with the wheat and clover it would be still better. If the clover was cross-ploughed, as we cross-plough our summer fallows, the food here secured for the wheat would be wasted and lost, by being turned up to the exhausting influence of the sun and winds.—Turnips must and will, ultimately, enter largely into the cattle husbandry of Ohio.

CATTLE FOOD.—We learn also from our traveller, that during the winter months, cattle are fed in Ohio on Indian corn, cut up with the stem and foliage, before the grain has become hard, and placed upright in moderate sized shocks; that in this way it dries without mouldiness, and makes one of the most succulent and nutricious articles of food; and that thousands of acres are cultivated in Ohio for this purpose.

This practice, so far as it converts the GRAIN into a part of the fodder, is to us altogether new, and yet it seems highly beneficial, at least where the grain, as in Ohio, commands but a low price. Our traveller being rather a geologist than a farmer, has not told us whether the corn, thus intended for fodder, is sown broad cast or in drills or hills, or whether it receives any after culture. If broad cast, the grain would be in far smaller proportion than if in hills, and partially dressed. If sown in drills, and the ground merely dressed with a cultivator, the expense per acre would not exceed two or three dollars more than if sown broad cast; the corn would repay this, and more, and the stalks would be rather increased than diminished. Cut in a green succulent state, the stalks contain far more nutriment, and are better relished by cattle, than when suffered to ripen the grain. It is this consideration which has led to the practice of cutting up corn, for the crop, as soon as the grain has become seared or glazed. To those unpracticed in this method of harvesting the crop, doubts are apt to be entertained whether the corn, thus cut, will ripen. From fourteen year's practice I can assure them, that such corn will be as sound, as bright and as heavy, as that which is left to ripen in the field. Our quotation suggests important hints, which we hope some of our farmers will have courage to profit from.

HARD WATER.—It is a practice on what are called "the Barrens," in Ohio, where the water is strongly impregnated with lime, and of course unfit for many culinary purposes, to mix with it ley or wood ashes. And we have seen, among us, a small bag of ashes put into a kettle of water for washing clothes, or dishes, in order to render it soft. The utility of this practice may be thus chemically explained:—The lime which exists in the water consists of calcareous matter and carbonic acid; the alkali of the ley abstracts the carbonic acid, having a stronger affinity for it than the lime, the latter is precipitated; and the water, thus freed, becomes soft, and readily forms, with soap, what is denominated SUDS. The presence of lime in water is soon ascertained by the crust which it forms in the inside of tea kettles in which it is boiled. The remedy should be remembered by those who live in lime districts.

COMMUNICATIONS.

For the Maine Farmer.

HABITS OF PLANTS.--No. 2.

Mr. Holmes,—When we speak of "habit" in a person, we either mean something acquired and of a somewhat fixed nature, or the means by which it is acquired. Hence, when we speak of a person who is fond of smoking or chewing tobacco, we say of the appetite or relish,—it is a habit; and speaking of the means by which he acquired it, we say that he acquires it by use, custom or habit. In applying this language to plants, I mean the same thing that a writer of the signature of "Quercus"—reprinted in the Maine Farmer from the Genesee—appears to mean when speaking of the ACQUIRED properties of animals, and the same reasons which he gives why a Farmer should understand these peculiar properties in animals, are as applicable to vegetables.—These acquired properties seem to have their origin in that attribute of the vital principle in animals and plants by which they accommodate themselves to the different circumstances of their existence.

For instance, Indian corn when cultivated for a number of years in a Southern climate, accommodates itself to that climate by a slower growth, and is much longer in coming to maturity. This modification of the constitution of the plant, though strongly fixed, is not absolutely and unalterably so. Carry the seed of this same corn to a more Northern climate, and by degrees it goes through another process of decomposition until, at length, it becomes acclimated.

This method by which the habits of plants are changed, seems to be well understood.—But perhaps there are other means by which they may be changed, which we do not well understand, and of which perhaps we are totally ignorant. I was led to reflect on this subject by the very different success which attended the changing of the seed of plants for the sake of improvement. Some people seem to think that a kind of magical influence attends the practice; as though mere change of seed itself were the procuring cause. I must confess that I myself have got into doubts on this subject, and I know no way to get out but by beginning at the foundation of the subject, and, by examining facts, establish such general principles for the regulation of practice as might be safely relied upon.

Knowledge is well said to be power,—and knowledge to the Farmer, in these subjects is, like the power of the lever and the screw, combined; to the Mechanic, not only enabling him to raise a vast weight, but also to secure at every step what he has already gained.

It will be then seen at once that I make no pretensions to a thorough knowledge of the subject; nor have I had that long experience in husbandry which many others have had, from which to draw such a store of facts to elucidate the subject as would be derirable. But let it be considered that we are in the infancy of improvement in Agriculture, and I know no better way for any one who wishes to learn himself than to try to communicate what he does know to others. It leads a person to search for the foundation of opinions and principles, and fixes the results in his memory in the most permanent manner. I have gained more definite ideas on some subjects, by taking this course, in a few weeks, than I ever did in all my life before. With this object then in view, it is not my object to be alone in discussing this subject, nor shall I proceed with haste, but shall endeavor to collect such facts together as I can from my own experience, and that of others, on any one branch of the subject, and then wait for the views and opinions of others. Yours, &c. J. H. J.

Peru, March 17, 1834.

For the Maine Farmer.

CULTURE OF WHEAT.

Mr. Holmes,—I have been an attentive observer of the growth of Wheat on old land for more than thirty years, and I have read every thing that I could find on the subject, from European and American pens; and I am well pleased to read the numbers now in the course of publication in the Farmer. I must acknowledge that B. R. has made one important discovery, as to the predisposing cause of the rust being seated in the lower joint and roots of the diseased wheat.

I do not, however, reason from this fact exactly as he does. He has convinced me of the fact by actually showing me the stubble of the sound and diseased wheat. The length of his essay is too great for us farmers, & an objection to it; as we may not have time or disposition, or perhaps in some instances, talent to follow him in all he says.

Now we want something short and sweet on the subject, like a well told tale. I have observed facts as they occured, and I have endeavored to reason from them on the subject of blast in wheat. I have reasoned on vegetable by analogy from animal life, but after all, the knowledge that we obtain from reasoning is the most uncertain of all the knowledge that we possess. I believe two theories; the one is, that all vegetable life is principally supported by food taken in at the leaf. The other is, that animal manure does little or no good to vegetation until the season is sufficiently advanced to get the manure into a putrid state.—While in the acid state, unless there is alkali applied, it does no good; and that is the period, as I believe, and if I understand him, in which B. R. has found that the predisposition to blast begins; and now, How to prevent the blasting of wheat? is the all absorbing question,

First—Let the land be moderately rich, whether by barn yard manure or any thing else.

Second—Be sure and sow as early in the Spring as you possibly can.

Third—Proportion the quantity of good, full and healthy seed to the richness of the land.

Very rich land should have more seed; and should a disposition to rust or lodge and blast appear, which may be known by the dark color of the leaves of the grain, take a sickle and cut all the leaves off above where the head is coming out as low as possible, being careful not to injure the head. This will reduce B. R.'s plethora, and there will be less surface of leaves to take in food. Never neglect the above rules, and you will in general never be troubled with blasted wheat. Should these rules be neglected, and the wheat begin to blast before the kernel is full or perfectly ripe to cut, the better way is to cut it notwithstanding, as there will be less loss generally by cutting than to let it stand. I acknowledge that the atmosphere, when the wheat is in a ripening state, (and even before,) has great influence. Hence, our dependence upon the Supreme Being for all crops. Diseases that are the effects of egregious sin and folly in the human race, are now often brought under the control of medicine, and therefore because the atmosphere has an untoward influence, shall we not attempt to counteract it? Is it not our duty so to do? Should the clover system, that is, two years to clover and then wheat, succeed as I anticipate, Maine is safe for breadstuff. Mixed varieties, that will ripen at the same time, have not blasted, while all was blasted that was not crossed. W.

For the Maine Farmer.

Mr. Holmes,—I am making arrangements to procure a quantity of Cedar for posts; and am desirous to know certain particulars respecting them. For this purpose I solicit answers to the following questions, viz:

1 When should it be cut?

2 What kind of Cedar is preferable?

3 Ought the bark to be taken off when green?

4 Ought the post to be faced or made a plane on one side?

5 Can post fence be made to stand well on loamy or clayey soil?

6 In what way the best—by filling up round the posts with the soil taken out, or tan, or coarse gravel?

7 Will a fence stand well on any ground, if the posts be set in blocks, in the form of a dove tail, and the blocks placed in the ground at the depth of six feet? A. G. D.

For the Maine Farmer.

MANURE.—No. 1.

If it were asked what object is of the first importance to the farmer, I would answer MANURE. And if it were asked what is the next in importance, I would answer MANURE. And even if it were asked thirdly, I would answer MANURE. So eminently useful and highly important do I consider it, that the whole theory of good tillage may be resolved into one simple proposition, viz:

The judicious application of the different kinds of manure to the different kinds of soil.

Mixing soils so as to make poor land richer, wet land dryer, cold land warmer, and heavy land lighter, has ever been considered an important desideratum in agriculture; and I believe much of this may be effected by a proper adaptation of manure to the different varieties of soil; due regard being had to the quantity and quality of manure thus applied. I did not intend, however, to treat of its applicability to the different soils, but to offer some friendly hints in relation to the general use of manure.

Much of our land in a state of nature is too sterile for the spontaneous production of vegetable food in such abundance as will meet the demand of its inhabitants. Some portions may possess a soil originally rich, but not of sufficient depth to yield, successively without the aid of manure, an undiminished crop. But even if all our land possessed a soil deep, rich and fertile, sad experience teaches us that a continued gathering of crops will soon render it unproductive.

Thus it seems that although Nature will yield her fruits for the support of man, yet not in sufficient abundance to supply his wants, unless he steps forward and unites his diligent and devoted cooperation in the great work. With this view of the subject, and all past experience before us, we are naturally led to consider the absolute necessity of the free and general use of manure as the greatest and most important agent in facilitating the growth of all the vegetable productions which constitute in any degree, the support, comfort or happiness of man. Finally, no one doubts the necessity of using manure as the principal auxiliary to the production of a profitable crop; but while its beneficial effects are so professedly evident, and always proportionable to the quantity used, it becomes a matter of astonishment, that so little use is made of it, comparatively, and no greater efforts brought in requisition to increase its production. The quantity of manure, applied to the acre in numberless instances, is so small that its nourishing properties are exhausted and gone, even before the crop has

arrived at its middle growth. This is a serious fact, which ought to be well known, and when known it is a sufficient argument in all cases against light manuring. I may have occasion to speak of this again, but as I like brevity I must reserve further remarks for another communication. CAROLUS.

From the Genesee Farmer.

CATTLE HUSBANDRY.

[*Continued from page* 86.]

MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES.

Before we proceed in our extracts in relation to the Short Horns, we will state some facts which may be interesting to the cattle farmer, in a brief way, which we glean from much that would be uninteresting to him, in the work before us.

The Hereford, Sussex and Glamorganshire cattle, noticed in the above tables, have probably sprung from the same origin as the North Devons. They are considered as belonging to the same general class. The Herefords are larger than the Devons, have generally white faces, throats and bellies, are of a dark red, sometimes brown or brindled. The Sussex are also larger, but coarser, than the Devons, generally of a bright chestnut color. The Glamorganshire is a Welch stock, smaller than the Devons, owing to the scanty food which the mountains yield. None of these breeds are considered equal to the Devons for the plough. The Herefords are far worse milkers than the Devons, and the same remark will apply to the other two kinds. The Leicester belongs to the class of *long horns*, of which we shall have occasion more particularly to speak hereafter.

Various attempts to improve the Devons in weight have been attempted, as with the Hereford, Sussex and Durham breed; but with one exception they seem to have been unsuccessful: a single cross with the Herefords, obtained by stealth, is said to have produced some of the most perfect of the Devon family. A cross with the Guernsey has been thought to improve their quality for the dairy. The Devon stock sells high. They have sold as high as 100 guineas, and a lot of twelve cows, the stock of Mr Rogers, averaged at public sale, £30 or $133 each.

Calves are preferred to be dropped late. They are permitted to suck three times a day for a week. They are then used to the finger, and warm new milk is given for three weeks longer. For two months after it has plenty of warm scalded milk, mixed with a little finely powdered linseed cake (for which corn meal offers an excellent substitute) and entirely weaned at four months old.

"The grand secret of breeding is to suit the breed to the soil and climate." The Devons deteriorate in some countries, and improve in others.

Clouted cream, considered in Devonshire a great luxury with coffee, tarts or strawberries, is thus prepared: The milk stands in a bell metal vessel 25 hours, when it is placed over a small wood fire, and heat gradually. In an hour and a half, when it is approaching a state of *simmering*, the vessel is struck every now and then with the knuckle, or is very carefully watched. As soon as it ceases to ring, or the first bubble appears, and before it boils, it is taken off and set by 24 hours more. At the end of this time, the cream will have become wholly separated, will be thick enough to cut with a knife, and may be skimmed off. The dairy people say, there is economy in this process;—that five pounds of butter can be obtained in this way where only four could be obtained in the ordinary way, and that the butter is more saleable, on account of its pleasant taste.

To keep up in size and proof a good growth, it is deemed necessary to change the bull every two years. The Somerset farmers think that frequent bleedings, in small quantities, accelerate, the process of fattening. The calves in this county are principally fed, if not intended to be fattened on cheese-whey. The Herefordshire farmers insist as the result of experience, that the breeding qualities of a cow are materially lessened, and that even her form is deteriorated, by her being inclined to give a large quantity of milk.

We find no comparison between the North Devons and the Short Horns, as to their facilities of fattening, in ordinary or extraordinary feeding. We insert, however, the following comparison of the latter with the Herefords, a branch of the Devon or middle horned stock:

"Three Herefords and three Short Horns were selected: they were put together in a straw yard on the 27th Dec. 1827, and were fed in the open yard, at the rate of one bushel of turneps per beast per day, with straw only, until May 2, 1828 when their weights were taken, they were sent to grass.

No		cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	No		cwt.	qrs	lbs
1	Hereford,	8	3	0	1	Short Horns,	9	2	0
2	do.	7	3	0	2	do	8	2	0
3	do.	7	0	0	3	do	9	0	0

On the 3d Nov. they were taken from grass, and put into the stable, when their weight was as follows:

No		cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	No		cwt.	qrs	lbs
1	Hereford,	11	3	0	1	Short Horns,	12	3	14
2	do.	10	2	0	2	do.	12	2	3
3	do.	10	3	0	3	do.	12	3	0

From that time to the 25th March, 1829, they consumed the following quantities of Swedish turneps and hay:

	Turneps lbs.	Hay lbs.
The Herefords,	46,665	5,065
The ShortH orns,	59,540	6,779

They then weighed—

No		cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	No		cwt	qrs.	lbs
1	Hereford,	13	0	14	1	Short Horns	14	2	4
2	do.	12	0	0	2	do.	14	1	10
3	do.	12	0	0	3	do.	14	2	14

being an increase of weight in favor of the Short Horns of	17	2	0
and in favor of the Herefords of	13	2	14
and making a difference in favor of the Short Horns of	3	3	14

but then the Short Horns had consumed 12,775 lbs more of turneps, and 1,714 lbs more of hay.

"When they were all sold together at Smithfield, on the 30th of March, the heavier Short Horns fetched 97*l.* and the lighter Herefords 96*l.*, being an overplus of only 1*l.* to pay for the enormous difference in the food consumed, and the greater price given on account of the heavier weight of the Short Horns at the commencement of the experiment."

In Gloucester, celebrated for its cheese, and where the dairy is the great object, a great mixture prevails, through the *middle horn* varieties preponderate. The cows yield from four to six gallons of good milk per day. The calves are reared here pretty much in the same way as in Devonshire, as already noted—on skimmed milk, whey and linseed tea. Manured pastures are considered prejudicial to the dairy. The milk from them may be more abundant, but is not so rich. A farmer had two adjoining fields, one of them richly manured. His cows were put in each, in alternate weeks. When running in the manured ground the cheese was rank, heavy and hollow, and unfit for the market: When in the other, excellent cheese was made. Frequent changes in pasture are beneficial; as nothing is more conducive to the general health of the animal, as well as the abundant supply of milk, as the first flush of grass in the spring, after mowing, or in fresh pasture.

Our hilly lands are adapted to permanent pasture, to the dairy and sheep husbandry. Neither will ultimately be found to succeed well upon heavy wheat lands, or upon the lighter soils adapted to alternate husbandry. The counties upon the head waters of the Hudson, Mohawk, Susquehannah, Delaware and Allegany rivers, are destined to be our great sheep and dairy districts.

As the *double* Gloucester cheese is in great repute, we shall briefly describe the process of making it, merely premising, that the cause of its superior quality is not satisfactorily known—some ascribing it to the soil, or rather pasture grasses, and others to the process of manufacture.

The milk is set at a temperature of 85 deg., which it is desirable should be natural, that is from the cow, rather than artificial, by heating. The coloring matter & rennet are then added,—the rennet old and free from smell. The process of cutting and breaking the curd follows next; and when it is sufficiently broken it is put into vats and pressed well down. These vats are here or rather in New England, termed *cheese hoops*. The vats are filled as closely as possible—the cheese cloth placed over all, and a little hot water is poured over the cloth, *to harden the outside of the cheese*; the curd is then turned out into the cloth, and this being very carefully folded round it, the cheese is returned once more into the vat. All the vats which are to be filled are to be placed one upon another, and are subjected to the action of the press. Here they remain 24 hours, the vats of the next meal being placed underneath, and those of the preceding meal raised a tier, and dry cloths occasionally applied. In many dairies there is a second breaking of the curd, which, after having been reduced as small as possible, is scalded with a mixture of water and whey. This second and more perfect breaking down of the curd has been imagined to be the grand cause of the soft uniform substance of the cheese when it is fully made. The practice is however getting somewhat into disuse; for it is reasonably urged that this scalding and washing must extract a portion of the oleaginous part of the cheese, as washing in water dissipates this and the aroma of butter; therefore a great deal more care is taken in sufficiently reducing it with the knife, rapidly worked about the tub before the curd is put into the vat. The old farmers, however, maintain, that the whole art of making Gloucester cheese depends on the scalding process; that the salty matter of the milk and curd is thus disposed to develop itself, and to be brought so far out, as to form afterwards the uniform rich substance for which the Gloucester cheese is celebrated. No salt seems to be put into the curd: But after 24 hours the cheeses are well rubbed with salt; and this is repeated daily for four days. The cloths are now taken away, and the cheeses regularly returned to the press for four, or five, or six days, according to the state of the weather, They are then put upon the shelf, and turned twice in the day for two or three days; and then placed in the cheese room, where they are turned once in a day for a month. They are then scraped clean, and painted red or brown, which in a few days is rubbed from the edges, and and the cheese is continued to be turned once or twice every week. To prepare the rennet, *two months before it is to be used*, 12 pounds of salt are boiled in 12 gallons of water till the liquid will bear an egg; then strained, and 24 "vells," or stomachs, and 12 lemons with the rinds on, but incisions made into them and two ounces of cloves and cinnamon, are then put into the liquor. The "single Gloucester" is *skim-milk cheese!* and it is common to take cream enough from the "double" to serve the family.

We cannot refrain from interlading here, honorable mention of an Otsego dairy woman. Mary Brown, the worthy consort of Lemuel Brown, of Edmiston, made the last summer forty seven hundred ponds of cheese from thirteen cows. The quality of this cheese is not excelled by any that comes to market. It sold at nine cents the pound. But what is worthy of particular notice is, that Mrs Brown's cheese was not "single Gloucester," deprived of a part of the cream, but real "*double Otsego*," with every particle of the cream incorporated with the curd. Mrs B. remarks, that every pound of butter made from cheese milk, diminishes the cheese two pounds in weight, and one or two cents in price. Mrs. Brown's example should be commended by every lover of good cheese.

In Sussex, stall feeding is much practiced. Lord Egremont has his milch cows tied up the greater part of the year, alledging that he thereby saved one third of the food,—that the cows were fed with a fourth part of the usual trouble,—that more dung was made,—and that there was no poaching the ground. Mr Glynde a skilful farmer found that nine oxen fed loose in the yard, ate and destroyed as much as twelve oxen that were tied up. The average weight of the Sussex ox, when fitted for market, is stated at 16 and 17 cwt., and they have gone as high as 3,000 lbs. Oxen are worked three days in a week, in winter and fed upon straw; and when they will not bear hard work, and hard food, they are turned off to fatten. The bull is changed every two years by the best breeders, from the supposition, that the

breeding *in and in* will cause the stock to degenerate.

In Glamorganshire and *Cardiganshire*, butter is the maine object, and good cows average 1 cwt in the dairy season.—(*To be contined.*)

MECHANICS.

From the Railroad Journal.

ON THE PETREFYING OF WOOD, AS APPLICABLE TO TIMBER FOR RAILROADS, &c.

Some time since, in an eastern paper, there appeared an article stating that some persons had discovered a method of completely petrifying wood, and so preserving it nearly, or quite indestructible, by saturation with HYDRATE OF LIME. If any of your correspondents can furnish any information of the process; or any facts which may elucidate the subject, perhaps they might render an important service to the cause of railroads, in situations which require or admit the use of wood; and I would respectfully suggest to any who may recollect such facts, that the communication of them to the Railroad Journal would be a gratification to at least *one* of its readers—probably to many.

It is said that timber imbedded in lime, under certain circumstances, as, for instance, the end of beams inserted in the walls of brick houses, decays sooner than in the open air—becomes dry, rotten, &c.—I have heard it argued that this is owing to the causticity, or some other quality of the lime; and to prevent the effect, it has been a practice, in some cases, to leave a space for the ends of the beams, large enough for the free circulation of air around them, and free from contact with the lime used in the construction of the walls. Whether the facts observed in those cases fully justify the conclusion that lime is always or ever, injurious to the durability of the timber, I would not venture to assert, and it is not my purpose now to inquire. I am willing to admit the conclusion that it *may* be so in some cases; but I would suggest the inquiry whether its causticity may not be so completely destroyed by saturation with water, and in this state whether wood may not be so far impregnated with it as to become much more durable and perhaps next to indestructible.

The notice mentioned at the introduction of this article, if it may be relied on as fact, answers the inquiry in the affirmative. Of the fact however I am ignorant, and therefore it is that I make this communication & inquiry. My object is to excite others to further investigations, and with this end in view, I beg leave to states ome facts of which I have been informed, which seem to me to prove sufficiently, that lime may in *some* situations be made to contribute very essentially to the durability of wood; and, perhaps, may suggest a remedy, to some important extent, for the disadvantages to which wooden railroads are obviously liable.

Some years ago, I was travelling on the sea coast of Maine, and put up for a night at the house of an elderly gentleman, who had been all his days concerned in shipbuilding, and appeared to be a sensible shrewd observer. He had, that day a new vessel arrived from her first voyage to a foreign port and among other circumstances was told that she had not leaked a drop during the voyage. This led me to remark that she must have been exceedingly well built. He replied that he thought the tightness of the vessel was owing, in a measure, to the *lime* with which she had been stuffed while building. He had been led to believe that lime was a better preservative of the timber of ships than salt, or any other substance heretofore used for that purpose. While this vessel was being built, and before ceiling up the inside, he had the intersices of the timbers filled with new stone lime, pounded fine enough to be driven in between the timbers, and rammed in as solid as was possible in that state; the planking was then finished, and the lime left to slake and fill the remaining interstices. His theory was that the air, and the moisture of the wood, and perhaps a little water, which might be expected to leak into the best built vessel, would slake the lime so that its expansion would fill every chink in the timbers and penetrate the pores of the wood itself, sufficiently to prevent speedy decay, but any effect in renderiug the vessel more staunch he had not anticipated. He however concluded that the expansion of the lime, though, from its small quantity not sufficient to injure the vessel by its mechanical force, yet had been sufficient, by the addition of the little water which had leaked in, to form a mass of mortar so solid as to prevent, at least in some degree, the further ingress of water from without. This, however, was a new idea and the present experiment was not conclusive; but as to its effect in preserving the timber, he had no doubt; and he related several facts in his own knowledge in support of this opinion.

As one instance, he stated that he had once owned a coasting vessel, built of the common timber of the coast of Maine, which when nearly new was once bound from Thomaston to Boston, with a cargo of lime, and on her passage went ashore somewhere between Cape Ann and Boston, and bilged. The lime slaked, burnt the deck and upper works, and, as might be expected, penetrated the timbers throughout. The vessel was unloaded, repaired, and lived, I think he said, thirty or forty years after this event; had undergone occasional repairs since, but the principle part of the original timber remained. When, after that time examined, it was found that the original timbers which had been impregnated with the lime, were *perfectly sound*, while those which had been added *since* that time, were all, or nearly all, *rotten*.—He adduced, also, the fact that vessels employed in carrying lime, generally, if not always, last longer than any others; and said that he had resolved thereafter to saturate, as far as possible, all his vessels with lime, as the best method of preserving them from decay.

Another instance was that of a parcel of pine planks which had been used as a platform *on the ground*, on which to make lime mortar. This platform was laid by his grandfather, in a corner of the yard, and used more or less every year for the purpose of a "mortar bed." His father continued it in the same use; himself, the grandson, continued it for some time, as long as he had occasion; after which, it lay some years unused, and overgrown with grass and weeds; at length wanting the ground for another purpose, he had it torn up and removed, expecting to find the planks entirely rotten—but, to his surprize found them sound, and, to use his forcible expression, "as hard as a bull'shorn."—This was after they had lain in contact with the surface of the ground exposed to all the vicissitudes of the atmosphere, I think he said, *about sixty years!*

It is now near 15 years since I have received these accounts from the old gentleman, and I have never seen him since: my recollection, therefore may not be perfectly accurate in the details of his statements, but of their *substance* I feel certain. When I saw the notice referred to in the beginning of this article, respecting the preservation of timber by means of hydrate of lime, these facts at once recurred forcibly to my mind and I was led to the inference that, in the cases mentioned, there had been so much water present as to destroy the *caustic* properties of the lime, convert it to a *hydrate*, and hold so much of it in solution, and in such a situation, as that it might always be presented to the wood for its absorption, until it had become entirely saturated, and the wood thus effectually preserved.

Will some of your correspondents recollect, and furnish for publication in the Journal, such facts as may confirm or correct this inference, and trace out its legitimate consequences if confirmed?

From the Portsmouth N. H. Journal.

VALUE OF LABOR. There is a man in the town of Lime, in this state, who has been blind for several years. After he was visited with this calamity, he was not a little at a loss to devise means for his future sustenance. He soon however directed his attention to the manufacture of pegs from maple wood, used by boot and shoe makers. For this purpose he procured the necessary apparatus and set himself to work. He purchased a small maple tree for which he gave about seventy five cents converted it into pegs, which he sent to various shoe manufactures in the adjacent towns, and realised as the avails of his labor on this tree, a sum amounting to about 75 dollars. Encouraged by this effort, he has continued to prosecute the business for several years, realizing from 75 to 100 dollars on each tree which he works up. He has built him a home—got married—and is now what people term fore handed.

SUMMARY.

EFFECTS OF LIGHTNING.

During the Thunder Storm of Thursday night last week, the lightning which was uncommonly vivid, struck the house of Doct Cochran, on the Shore Village at East Thomaston, and almost literally tore it in pieces. Its effects we are informed, were visible in every room in the house—one end of the house was taken out and half of it carried some distance; the windows were blown out and broken; the Clock shattered to pieces, and the whole house exhibited marks of the violence of the lightning seldom before seen. Two young Ladies, daughters of Doct Cochran, were in bed, the head of the bed standing against a window, they became alarmed and got up and moved the bed from the window, which they had scarcely done before the lightning struck the window, broke it to pieces and split the head board of the bed in several pieces.—There were ten persons we understand in bed in the house, neither of whom were in the least injured.

Thomaston Journal.

Later from Europe.—By way of Charleston, S. C. we have later news from Spain and Portugal. The paramount importance of our own daily domestic news entirely eclipses the interest of our foreign intelligence.—We have room only for a brief summary. The affairs of Spain were looking more favorably for the cause of the Queen, although a desultory war was kept up by the Carlists who are styled "rebels."

From Lisbon we learn that the forces of Don Miguel had been discomfitted in a succession of engagements. The Miguelites attempted a demonstration upon Lisbon, on the 30th January, but were compelled to retire under the protection of some pieces of cannon which they had on the south side of the Tagus. On the same day a Miguelite division of 4500 strong, made the requisitions for attacking Saldanha, at Pernes, but they were anticipated, and their outposts cut off before they were aware of it, by Pedro's cavalry. The main body thereupon moved off on their retreat to Santarem—leaving many killed and wounded, and 1000 prisoners, including 21 officers, in the hands of the victors. The Pedroites had only 8 privates killed, and 4 officers and 13 privates wounded.

A letter from Lisbon of the 3d Febuary, states that the forces of Miguel have been reduced to about 5000 men. In consequence of reverses, a part of the troops of Miguel, hitherto employed in the blockade of Oporto, have been withdrawn to Coimbra. The Madrid Gazette of Febuary 11th, states that these reverses of his friend Miguel had given great uneasiness to Don Carlos who yet remained at Villareal.

The editor of the Lisbon Chronicle, concludes with the observation, that the enemy, beaten every where and in the utmost disorder, may be considered as entirely lost, and the dissolution of their unfortunate army is at hand.

London, Feb. 7.—The French papers bring us some further news from Madrid, amongst which the most important is the mission of Count Toreno to Santerem, to require the expulsion of Carlos from beneath the protection of Miguel.

Remarkable Longevity.—Mrs Betsey Trantham died in Maury County, Tennessee, on the 10th of Jan. 1834, at the uncommonly advanced age of 154 years. She was born in Germany, and emigrated to the British Colonies in America, at the time of the first settlement was made in North Carolina in the year 1710. It is a matter of his-

tory that the proprietors of Carolina induced a number of Palatines from Germany to emigrate to their lands in that colony, in order to give value to their possessions. For this purpose ships were prepared to convey the emigrants and upon their arrival Gov Synte was directed to give each 100 acres of land. Among the number of those who emigrated at that time, which was 120 years ago, was Mrs Trantham. At the age of 120 her eyesight became almost extinct, but during the last twenty years of her life she possessed the power of vision as perfectly as at the age of 20. For many years previous to her death, she was unable to walk, had lost both her taste and hearing, lying most of the time between two feather beds to keep her warm. At the age of 60 she she bore her only child, which is now living.

"Old Parr" lived to be 169, in England and Jenkins as old as Mrs. Trantham. Several others have lived to as great age as 150, in Europe, but none in this country before Mrs T. except a negro woman from Africa.

Sad effects of Intemperance. A dwelling house was lately burnt in Middleboro', belonging to P. H. Pierce, Esq and occupied by Nathaniel Cole 2d, who was burnt in the house. The house belonged formerly to Cole, but the love of rum put it into the hands of the rumseller. Cole was at the time intoxicated.—His wife who had been out at work, washing, through the day, returned and found her husband in such ill temper, that she was obliged to flee to another place for rest. Cole was then alone in the house, and by some means set fire to it, and was burnt up.

Freedom. The Legislature of Antigua has *unanimously* abolished slavery in that Island, and its dependencies, Montserat, Berbuda, St Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla, the Virgin Islands, and Dominica. The act is to take effect on the first of August next.

Outrage.—We learn with regret that while a portion of the citizens of Germantown and Manyunk on their peaceable return from the the great town meeting to their respective places of residence, were suddenly attacked by a gang of about two hundred ruffians, headed, it is said, by a noted gambler and black leg. The attack was commenced by throwing stones. Several of the people of Germantown were seriously injured: but the young men of the city and county hearing of the outrage, hastened to the rescue with the Sheriff at their head, promptly restored quiet, and saw the several committees, &c., safely placed in the railroad cars, and on their way to their respective homes. We understand that the ringleaders were recognised, and warrants have been issued for their arrest. [Philadelphia Inquirer.

At a meeting of the members of the Kennebec Mill Dam association, on the 20th ult., the following officers were chosen.

ASA REDINGTON, Jr., *President.*
JAMES L. CHILD, *Sect'y & Treasurer.*
DANIEL WILLIAMS, }
ALLEN LAMBARD, } *Directors.*
JAMES BRIDGE, }
LOT MYRICK, }

We are gratified to learn, that the Corporation have secured the services of Col Loammi Baldwin who has consented to make the necessary surveys estimates &c. the present season. Col Baldwin, as a scientific and practical engineer, stands deservedly high, throughout the Union, and should his report prove favorable to the accomplishment of this important work, we have no doubt that individuals can readily be found, who will be disposed to make the investment necessary to carry the undertaking into full execution. *Age.*

Distressing Casualty. About five o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, the 18th instant, a fine little boy, named Edward Harris, son of Mr Harris, plumber, in Wood street, was killed by a cart passing over his head. The lad was playing with several other boys, and ran backwards off the pavement into the street, directly under a horse that was passing at a slow walk. The boy screamed as he fell, which caused the horse to start suddenly, and before he could be restrained, the wheel of the cart passed over the boy's head, causing instant death.—*Phil. Gaz.*

MARRIAGES.

In Portland, Mr Jacob Mills, Jr. to Miss *Harriet Ross*, daughter of the late M. Wm. Ross.

In *Houlton*, Mr Simon *Fogg*, Jr. to Miss *Hannah* W. Kenniston.

In *Bath*, Mr Elijah Low, of Bangor, to Miss Julia *Ann* Lemont.

DEATHS.

In this town, Mr James Buswell.

In Monmouth, Mr Peleg B. Thurston, aged about 27.

In Prospect, Col. Jonathan Dow, aged 61.

In Williamsburgh, of Erysipelas, Moses Greenleaf, Esq. aged about 55 years; Madam Lydia G. Greenleaf, about 83 years of age, of the same disease.

In Brunswick, on the 21st inst. *Mrs. Alice* McKeen, relict of *Rev.* Joseph McKeen, first President of Bowdoin College. She survived her partner 26 years; dying peacefully at the advanced age of 76 years.—Mr Nathaniel Holman, of Canaan, a member of the Medical School, aged about 25.

BRIGHTON MARKET—Monday, March 24.
(*Reported for the Boston Daily Advertiser & Patriot.*)

At Market this day, 275 *Beef* Cattle, 12 pair working Oxen, 10 Cows and Calves; 150 Sheep, and 600 Swine.

Prices. *Beef Cattle.*—Last week's prices were not supported; our quotations will show a small variation. We noticed a few extraordinary fine cattle taken at $6. *We* quote prime at 5 33 a 5 75; good at 5 a 5 33; thin at 4 50 a 4 88.

Working Oxen—*We* noticed sales at $70, 80, 85 and 110.

Cows and Calves—Sales were effected at $19, 23, 25, and 28.

Sheep.—Sales not known.

Swine—In demand; lots were taken at 5c for Sows and 6c for *Barrows*; also at 5 1-4 and 5 1-2 for sows, and 6 1-4 and 6 1-2 for barrows, at retail 6 for sows & 7 for *Barrows*.

ENGINE NOTICE.

A meeting of the *Winthrop Hydraulian* Company will be held at their Engine house on Monday next at eight o'clock A. M.—*A* general attendance is reqnested.

Per order, *M. H. RIPLEY*, Clerk.

Anti-Slavery Society.

A Special meeting of the Winthrop Anti-Slavery Society will be held at the Masonic Hall on Thursday next, *Fast Day*, at 4 o'clock P. M. As one object of this Society is to collect and diffuse information on the character of Slavery, we respectfully invite our fellow citizens to aid us by attending our meetings, taking a part in our discussions, by communicating, or receiving, reasons and facts, relating to this great subject. Fully and firmly assured, that reason, truth and justice are on our side; we ask a candid and impartial examination of our principles and our measures. Our sincere and earnest desire is to free our beloved Country of its *foulest stain* and *greatest sin*; that the two millions of our enslaved countrymen may be put in possession of the inherent rights, of which they have been unjustly deprived; and that all this may be done in the best manner possible. Shall we ask for co-operation in vain?

By order of the *Board* of Managers,
April 4. D. THURSTON.

Farm for Sale.

THE subscriber being advanced in years, and of feeble health, offers for sale his *FARM* in *Winthrop*, situated on the post road half a mile west of the village, containing 60 acres of land not inferior in quality to any in the vicinity, together with a wood lot of about 20 acres at a convenient distance. Said Farm fronts about 100 rods on the pond or lake directly below the factory, the side and head lines being about the same length, well watered—the pastures by a never failing pond, the barn by an aqueduct and a good well of water at the corner of the house—produces about 40 tons of hay annually, with pasturing sufficient for from 12 to 15 head of cattle, and capable of great improvement, with a good orchard—two dwelling houses—two barns and other out buildings. Also one mile west of the above named, about ten acres of land—mowing and pasturing—with a good house and some other buildings, and a good orchard, being the late residence of Elnathan Swift. Also in *Readfield*, near the factory, a lot of about 4 acres under high cultivation, with a good orchard, house and barn, a good well of water with a pump and aqueduct, &c. *All* or either of which may be had of the subscriber for a fair price, and payments made favorable to the purchaser.

JAMES CURTIS.

Winthrop, April 3, 1834.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the subscriber has been duly appointed Administrator of all and singular the goods and estate which were of John Currier, late of Winthrop, in the County of Kennebec, deceased, intestate, and has undertaken that trust by giving bond as the law directs:—*All* persons therefore, having demands against the estate of the said deceased are desired to exhibit the same for settlement; and all indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to

Wm. C. FULLER, *Administrator.*

Feb'y 25, 1834.

NOTICE.

THOSE indebted to the Winthrop Manufactory for sawing in 1832 & 3, are requested to call and settle their accounts before the 10th of May next.

STEPHEN SEWALL, Agent.

Winthrop, *April* 2, 1834. 3t.

LIST OF LETTERS

Remaining in the Post Office at Winthrop, April 1, 1834.

Alden Austin	Packard Eliphalet
Andrews Hannah S.	Packard Ebenezar
Barrows John	Perkins Luther
Buswell James	Perkins Azel
Benson Charles	Perkins Nathaniel
Blake Sophia P.	Palmer Joseph
Crocket Miss. Care of Wm C. Fuller Esq.	Parker Levi
	Philbrook Charles
Chute Angus	Rockwood Louisa
Currier Sarah	Sturtevant Noah (2)
Curtis James	Stone John
Fairbanks H. W.	Shaw Jotham
Foster Otis Jr. (2)	Simpson Ezekiel
Foster Nathan	Staples Persis. Care of Elias Whiting
Gennas Benjamin	
Gould Catharine	Stanley Lemuel
Gilson Charles	Sturtevant Abisha
Holbrook Salvin	Sweetser Sylvina E. L.
Hawes Mary Francis	Titus James
Holmes Sarah	Thompson Eliza
Hayward Daniel	Whiting Nathaniel
Hewey Martha	Whiting E.
Holmes *Isaac* C.	White Moses (2)
Howard Oakes	White Samuel
Jackson *Isaac*	Whitney Samuel
Kelley E. W.	Wing Levi B.
Lambert Hannah	Wing Jno. O.
Lambert Gideon	Warren David
Lancaster Thomas	Wood Thomas C.

GEORGE W. STANLEY, P. M.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That I, John Smith, Jun'r. of *Wayne*, in the *County* of Kennebec, and *State* of Maine, in consideration of Ten Dollars, paid by my sons, John Odlin Smith, and Joseph Heselton Smith, I have this day relinquished to them their time till they arrive to the full age of twenty-one years; with power to trade and transact business for themselves, so that neither I, the said John Smith, Jr. nor any person under me, my heirs or assigns, shall in any way claim a right to the earnings of the said John and Joseph, from this date till they arrive at the full age of twenty one years.

Dated March the 4th day, eighteen hundred and thirty four. JOHN SMITH, Jr.

Signed and sealed in presence of
Francis J. *Bowles*, David P. Crocker.

To the Honorable H. W. Fuller, *Judge of the Court of Probate within and for the County of Kennebec.*

THE petition and representation of Oren Shaw, Guardian of *GEORGE ALBERT HAYWARD*, minor child of *ALBERT HAYWARD*, late of Winthrop, in the County of Kennebec, deceased, respectfully shews that said minor is seized and possessed of certain real estate, situate in said *Winthrop*, and described as follows:—one piece bounded on the East by the pond called Narrows pond, on the North by Issacher Snell's land, on the West by a road leading from said Snell's house to *Daniel* Hayward's, and on the South by land of the said Oren *Shaw's*, being the household farm of the said deceased; also one other piece situate in said *Winthrop*, bounded on the East by said road, on the South by land of Dudley Todd, on the West by land of said Snell, and on the North by the County road and by land of said Snell. The aforesaid lands are subject to the said George's mother, right of Dower therein: that said estate is unproductive of any benefit to said minor and that it will be for the interest of said minor that the same should be sold and the proceeds put out and secured, on interest. He therefore prays your honor that he may be authorized and empowered agreeably to law to sell at public or private sale the above described real estate, or such part of it as in your opinion may be expedient. All which is respectfully submitted. *OREN SHAW.*

County of Kennebec, ss.—*At a Court of Probate, held in Augusta on the second Tuesday of March*, 1834.

ON the Petition aforesaid, *Ordered*, That notice be given by publishing a copy of said petition, with this order thereon, three weeks successively in the Maine Farmer, a newspaper printed in *Winthrop*, that all persons interested may attend on the second Monday of April next, at the Court of Probate then to be holden in *Augusta*, and show cause, if any, why the prayer of said petition should not be granted. Such notice to be given before said Court.

H. W. FULLER, Judge.

Attest: E. T. Bridge, *Register.*

A true copy of the petition and order thereon.

Attest: E. T. Bridge, *Register.*

March 13, 1834. 3w.

POETRY.

THE PEBBLE AND THE ACORN.

BY HANNAH F. GOULD.

"I am a pebble, and yield to none,"
Were the swelling words of a tiny stone;
"Nor change nor season can alter me;
I am abiding while ages flee.
The pelting hail and the drizzling rain
Have tried to soften me long in vain;
And the tender dew has sought to melt,
Or to touch my heart, but it was not felt.
None can tell of the Pebble's birth:
For I am as old as the solid earth.
The children of men arise, and pass
Out of the world like blades of grass,
And many a foot on me has trod
That's gone from sight, and under the sod.
I am a Pebble! but who art thou,
Rattling along from the restless bough?"

The Acorn was shocked at this rude salute,
And lay, for a moment, abased and mute;
She never before had been so near
This gravelly ball, the mundane sphere;
And felt for a while perplexed to know
How to answer a thing so low.
But, to give reproof of a nobler sort
Than the angry look, or the keen retort,
At length she said, in a gentler tone—
"Since it has happened that I am thrown
From a lighter element where I grew,
Down to another, so hard and new,
And beside a personage so august,
Abased, I will cover my head with dust,
And quickly retire from the sight of one
Whom time, nor season, nor storm, nor sun,
Nor the gentle dew, nor the grinding wheel,
Has ever subdued, or made to feel."

And soon in the earth she shrunk away
From the comfortless spot where the Pebble lay.
But it was not long ere the soil was broke
By the piercing head of an infant oak;
And, as it rose and its branches spread,
The Pebble looked up, and, wondering, said—
"A modest Acorn! never to tell,
What was enclosed in her simple shell—
That the pride of the forest was then shut up
Within the space of her little cup!
And meekly to sink in the darksome earth,
To prove that nothing could hide her worth.
And, Oh! how many will tread on me,
To come and admire that beautiful tree,
Whose head is towering towards the sky,
Above such a worthless thing as I!
Useless and vain, a cumberer here,
I have been idling from year to year;
But never from this shall a vaunting word
From the humble Pebble again be heard,
Till something without me, or within,
Can show the purpose for which I've been!"

The Pebble could not its vow forget,
And it lies there wrapped in silence yet.

MISCELLANY.

FERVID ELOQUENCE OF A QUAKER.

The following impassioned burst of deep and ardent feeling is one of the finest specimens of natural oratory we ever met with; the prose of the writer is embued with the very spirit of poety, while his warm and excited passion gushes forth in a resistless current of glowing eloquence: It seems Archdeacon Wilkins was exceedingly displeased at Mr Howitt's "History of Priesterast," and in an angry reply to that work, makes use of the terms, "You, sir, are a Quaker—you, sir, are a poet—you, sir, are a chemist; and then upbraids him *for stepping out of his vocation*. In a subsequent answer, Mr Howitt thus sarcastically and eloquently replies: What business had I to quit my laboratory, and indulge in the pleasures of literature? in those pursuits which, according to Cicero," adolescentiam alunt, senectutum oblectant secundas res ornant, adversis perfugium ac solatium prebent; delectant domi, non impediunt foris; pernoctant nobiscum, peregrinantur, rusticantur?" What business had I to do this? It is true, little as I have done, I have already had my reward, in the life and strength and joy of my own spirit, and in the communion into which it has brought me with some of the first of minds. What business had Burns to leave his fields, where he

——"Walked in glory and in joy,
Following the plough along the mountain side?"

Why left he his fathoming of the firkins, to write the merry Tam O'Shanter; the beautiful picture of humble and pious Scottish life—the Cotter's Saturday night; and songs and small poems, to whose quick spirit the heart of the Scottish exile, "encamped by Indian rivers wild," throbs simultaniously,

"And glows and gladdens at the charms
Of Scotia's woods and waterfalls?"

And what business had Hogg to march out of Ettrick forest, and go waving his green tartan up the streets of Edinburg, strong in his marvellous resolve to enrol his name amid the poets of the land? Oh, James, James, with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the haughtiness of thy heart! What business hadst thou at the Queen's Wake! At the Court of Queen Hynde? reclining in the glen, listening to the unearthly words of the pure Kilmeny; dancing with the fairies; telling of the Brownie of Bodsbeck; or singing one strong and peerless song of God's Omnipresence? What business had Allan Ramsy to go before the, chanting of the Gentle Shepherd? or a far greater Allan to come after thee, from the depths of Nithdals and casting down his mallet and chisel among his native rocks, dare to enter London, and seat himself amid all the fair handiworks of Chantry? What had he to do with collecting the Songs of Scotland; or making mighty ballads of his own?

"A wet sheet and a flowing sea."

what were they to him? he was overstepping his natural functious. O, honest Allan Cunningham! what business hadst thou with these things! And what business had William Roscoe to leave his mother's tap, to give over carrying out her pots of beer, and to go and write the lives of Popes and Italian Princes; to ennoble his own mind; to cast a splendor over his native town, and to leave a heritage to his children richer than a patent of nobility? And what business had those shoemakers, Bloomfield, the Farmer's Boy, and Gifford, the terror of dunces and the pride of Tories, to quit their stalls, and dare to become famous? and those draper's sons, Pope and Southey, and honest Isaak Walton, what wrongheadedness was theirs! What right had Isaak Walton to haunt the Dove, and Sawford Brook, and the Thames, with his rod and line, and go in summer meadows making sermons to himself of such beautiful and serene piety, as seldom issues from the lithographic press for the use of state priests? He has written the lives of certain church worthies too; and yet it is very questionable, that presumption of his. Those apothecaries, Crabbe and Keats, why did they not stick to their vocation, and avoid spoiling us with so much good poety? What a pity is it that our prudent Archdeacon was not present when Ben Jonson threw down his bod of mortar, and Shakspear left off poaching, to warn them against the sin of writing dramas? Could he have prevailed on John Wilson, and John Gibson Lockhart, and Sharon Turner, to abide by their parchments and pleas, what reading of multitudinous volumes might we have been spared! Washington left his farming to liberate his country, Franklin his types, to frame a constitution for her; and Dr Wilkins was not at hand to cry, 'overstep not the proper limits of your profession!' From the ranks of trade, from the very peasantry of the country, ascend to eminence clergymen, lawyers, and merchants; three-fourths of our nobility have sprung from the same source; and yet the enterprise of these men is very questionable, for numbers of them, with the happy daring of Sir Richard Arkwright, reached distinction by overstepping the proper limits of their original professions. Nothing therefore, can be more questionable, for Archdeacon Wilkins questions it!

SEED CORN.

THE subscriber having a superior kind of Seed Corn, o very considerable amount, and he fully believes it would be much to the interest of farmers to have a portion of it to plant the ensuing Spring, I shall deposit some of it with *Dole & Stickney*, Hallowell, *Peleg Benson, Jr. & Co. Store*, Winthrop, *George Cook's*, Gardiner, and at my house, where those who wish may be supplied. It is believed to be 15 days earlier than any other corn among us, which I can abundantly prove by my neighbors, although the corn is of good size.

ELIPHLET FOLSOM.

Monmouth, March 5, 1834.

E PLURIBUS UNUM.

TO THE AFFLICTED.

D. STANLEY

OFFERS FOR SALE

THE DULCIFIED VEGETABLE COMPOUND & DEOBSTRUENT PILLS,

A SAFE and efficient medicine for all those laboring under diseases of the Lungs, such as Coughs, Catarrhs, Croup, Asthma, inflammations of the mucus membranes of the throat and organs of the chest. This medicine has been singularly powerful in cases of bleeding from the Lungs, and as a preventive of Consumption. It is purely a vegetable composition, principally of native plants, and acts as a gentle stimulant of the digestive organs and as a corrector of the impurity of the blood and fluids necessary to good and perfect health. Hence it has been found exceedingly valuable in cases of general debility; also in Liver complaints, such as Jaundice, Rheumatism, as well as in the disorders peculiar to females. It is prepared and put up in the nicest manner by the inventor, E. HOLMES, M.D. who was first led to its use by ascertaining its efficacy upon himself in cough, spitting blood and pain in the chest, and it has since been administered to hundreds with unparralleled success.

Each bottle is accompanied by a box of pills enclosed in a pamphlet giving directions for its use—also certificates as to efficacy, &c. ☞ *Price* $1,50

Apply to DAVID STANLEY, Winthrop, Maine, Sole General Agent for the United States, to whom all orders must be sent (Post Paid.) Also to the following gentlemen, who are appointed *Agents*.

Wayne, H. W. Owen; *Augusta*, John Means; *Hallowell*, Lincoln & Day; *Gardiner*, S. O. Broadstreet & Co.; *Richmond*, Wilson & Whitmore; *Bowdoinham*, Syms Gardner; *Topsham*, John Tibbits; *Brunswick*, John S. Cushing; *Bath*, Caleb Leavitt; *Lisbon*, Paul C. Tibbets; *Lewiston*, Nathan Reynolds; *Garland*, Charles Reynolds; *Danville*, G. D. Dickerson; *Greene*, A. Cary; *Leeds*, Solomon Lothrop; *Dixfield*, J. B. Marrow.

NEW AGENTS.

Readfield, Jere. Page; *Belgrade*, Wm, Wyman; *Vassalboro'*, J. Southwick & Co.; *Fairfield*, J. Elden; *Anson*, Benj Stewart; *Winslow*, S. & J. Eaton; *Solon*, Jacob Lovell, Jr.; *Milburn*, D. C, Weston & Co.; *Canaan*, S. & L. Barrett & Co.; *Waterville*. J. M. Moor & Co.; *Cornville*, Joshua Fogg; *Norridgewock*, Amasa Manley; *Madison*, Hale & Spaulding; *Clinton*, J. & S. Lunt.

FRUIT TREES.

ORNAMENTAL TREES, ROSES, FLOWERING PLANTS, &c. NURSERY OF WM. KENRICK in NEWTON, 5½ miles from Boston, by the City Mills.

FRANKLIN GLAZIER, Hallowell, } *Agents.*
DAVID STANLEY, Winthrop, }

This Nursery now comprises a rare and extraordinary collection of fruit trees, Trees and Shrubs of Ornament, Roses, &c. and covers the most of 18 acres. Of *new celebrated Pears alone*, 150 kinds, a part of which, having already been proved in our climate, are specially recommended.—Of Apples 200 kinds—Peaches 115 kinds—Cherries 55 kinds—Plums, Nectarines, Almonds, Apricots, Quinces, Grape Vines, Currants, Raspberries, Goosberries, Strawberries, Figs, &c. &c.—selections from the best varieties known—a collection in unequal proportions of 800 varieties of fruit.

White mulberries for silk worms. Also the MORUS MULTICAULIS or *New Chinese Mulberry*, a beautiful fruit tree, so superior to silk worms to all others.

Of ROSES. A superb collection of from 300 to 400 hardy and China varieties; selections from numerous importations, and first rate sources. Horse Chesnuts as hardy as oaks—Weeping Willows. Catalpas, Mountain Ash, Silver Firs, Venetian Sumach, Altheas, Honeysuckles, Azaleas, &c. &c.—in all, of Ornamental trees, and shrubs, 650 varieties. Of Herbaceous flowering plants, a choice selection of 280 varieties, including the Pæonies, *Moutan and Papaveracea*—and 24 other kinds—and 83 splendid varieties of double Dahlias.

Trees, &c. delivered in Boston free of charge for transportation, and suitably packed, and from thence when ordered duly forwarded, by land or sea.

March 20, 1834.

JAMES ROBERTS,

BARBER AND HAIR DRESSER,

TENDERS his professional services to the good people of Winthrop and vicinity, and informs them that he has taken a shop in the village where he will be happy to *shave* them in the nicest manner, or *tonsorize* their heads *a la mode*.

He also Hones and Straps razors for those who can't afford to be shaved in style, and will put upon them such a keen edge that they will operate to perfection, though used by the most bungling hand.